

ACEC/NCDOT  
STRUCTURES SUBCOMMITTEE

Structures Conference Room C  
August 11, 2025, 10:30 PM

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

1) **Attendees**

- |                          |                                                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| a) David Snoke           | g) Emily Murray - Volkert                        |
| b) Gichuru Muchane       | h) Jeff Loftus – McAdams                         |
| c) Trey Carroll (absent) | i) Tony Laws – RS&H                              |
| d) David Stutts          | j) Joshua Gentry – RK&K                          |
| e) Hoang Dieu            | k) Greg Cols – AECOM (Ani Vasudevan in for Greg) |
| f) TBD                   | l) David Ragan – H&H                             |

2) **Meeting Kick-off**

- a) Previously approved minutes were published and available on ACEC website
- b) Subcommittee Updates
  - i) Emily and Jeff have taken over as chair/co-chair duties
  - ii) Welcome back Greg Cols for a full 3-year cycle
  - iii) Welcome David Ragan

3) **Bridge Design Workshop Series**

- a) Review Bridge Design Workshop tracking spreadsheet
  - i) Held the Corrosion Policy Refresher Updates on May 12, 2025
    - Currently changing the deck corrosion policy, but it is still being developed. Can reach out to SMU on Corrosion Policy as needed.
    - GFRP policy has not been developed yet, and this may apply to all decks in corrosive environments or subject to deicing when implemented. If you have a candidate project (highly corrosive or very high deicing salts) contact SMU.
- b) Update current potential topics and add new potential topics –
  - i) Reminder will be sent ahead of the next meeting for new topics.
- c) Identify next workshop to schedule
  - i) October 2025 – Helene Updates. SMU will reach out to D13 & D14 and Alternative Delivery for progress updates and will send Emily any October conflict dates
  - ii) Discuss potential candidates for January 2026
    - Bridge Rehabilitation and Repair topic – David Stutts to coordinate with Tim. Ideas include discussion of draft

Manual, funding sources, overlay types, joint types,  
general guidance on shotcrete and concrete repairs.

- Alligator River Bridge Replacement – Summer 2025

4) **Training/Professional Development Opportunities**

- a) PCI Bridge Forum identified for Spring 2026
  - i) Coordinate with Marti Harrell of Georgia/Carolinas PCI – Emily and Jeff to coordinate with PCI and David to set a date and ask for an agenda. After we coordinate with PCI, we will circle back with SMU for supplement SMU technical or project information.
- b) Other training opportunities
  - i) NCLUG – August 19-21, 2025, Summer Conference
    - Structures focused on the 20<sup>th</sup> and the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup>
  - ii) Paul Zia Lecture – Harker's Island Bridge September 29, 2025
- iii) NCDOT – Transportation Summit Sept. 3-4, 2025, ACEC NC/NCDOT Joint Conference Sept. 24-25, 2025
  - iv) WTS – Future of Transportation in RTP Lunch Aug. 15, WTS Charlotte Lunch and Learn Aug. 26 – Emily will reach out to WTS leadership for event dates for remainder of 2025.
  - v) Preconstruction Workshop March 17-18, 2025

5) **Anticipated PEF Opportunities**

- a) Updates from SMU-
  - i) LSCs are in the third optional year and will be advertised next year.
  - ii) Turnkey projects have lent themselves to selection at PMUs discretion. SMU gives some input on structures selection.
  - iii) As previously discussed, the bridge program is overprogrammed for the next two years with no new projects expected before year 3 and 4. No word on funding for preservation projects currently.
  - iv) As far as Helene funding it is not known where funds will be drawn from at this time. SMU is operating on the assumption they will receive the full allocation. Expect that Helene funds will come from GMR. There will be a lot more Express Design Build forthcoming. SMU is using PEFs to support review efforts.
- b) Helene bridge replacement update – Design firms will seal the standard plans for preordered slabs. SMU is verifying that the beams are being fabricated per standards and if there are any questions, the firm can reach out to SMU. If there is a non-standard preordered cored slab or box beam, SMU will provide plan sheets and the LRFR summary. In general, design anchorage if design flood is above the low chord. If overtopping conditions exist, use open rails. EOR is responsible for uplift and anchorage calcs.
- c) Other opportunities- Updated SMU about PRB bridge program

6) **Technical Topics**

- a) Recent revisions to manuals, standards, etc.
- b) Upcoming revisions to manuals, standards, etc.
  - i) Preparing to publish minor updates to SDM chapter 1-3 and will soon be updating chapter 6 to incorporate FIBS and release those standards.
  - ii) Working on preservation manual and will probably release standards ahead of that.
  - iii) Timber plans are on the SMU website. In general, a set of timber bridge plans should look similar to cored slab set of plans with elevations, etc. If deviating from standard in any way, firms should provide LRFR sheet. Standard plans with skewers are not currently being developed.
- c) Digital Delivery, OBD/Open X, and ProjectWise implementation
  - i) Structures will be participating in NCLUG with Nick's group providing two presentations and will cover place name boundary tool.
  - ii) The department is working on implementing a unified workspace for the department.
  - iii) SMU is hearing more issues with PGDs being read only. To prevent this, reference in the alignment from ORD and turn off unneeded information. If you use the old procedure of copying the information from the reference and then detaching the reference, you will make your file read only.
- d) Research project updates
  - i) No new topics from SMU. Still holding on not allowing integral end bents behind the MSE wall policy for now (still allowing on DB projects).
  - ii) Will be moving forward with policy of detailing the integral end bents to extend to end of cap.
  - iii) There is an ongoing NC State research project studying corrosion of galvanized or metallized steel pipe piles and H-piles.
- e) OBD bug in column design module - Area steel provided not correct. Shows half the amount of steel. Strength check is using the correct value and passes.

7) **Open Discussion/Other Topics**

- a) Any topics for discussion at the Transportation Advisory Board Meeting on 8/19? (ACEC Board Leadership, Transportation Committee Chair, NCDOT Leadership) **None noted.**
- b) Approval of bridge inspection reports- SMU has not heard complaints since the first couple of weeks. The firm is responsible for internal QC of the reports, and this does not take the place of the SMU review. Aster Abraha is the new bridge inspection and inventory project engineer.
- c) Other – Timber bridge standards – If bridges are put on supers outside the limits, firm be responsible for design and rating.
- d) Bridge Preservation Contract Time (D. Stutts) – SMU will start requiring plan submittal sooner than the 15 weeks turn in for preservation projects to

allow Contracts time to assemble the contract documents. On this type of project, they are trying to put together a contract with no information if they don't receive the bridge plans until eight weeks ahead of let. SMU would like to get plans in at least a week or two sooner than the 15-week turn in date.

e) SMU will not be involved with the NC Private Road and Bridge Program.

8) **Next Subcommittee Meeting:**

a) November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 – Meetings will be held the first Monday of the month to the extent practical. Looking forward, subsequent meetings will fall on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, and May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026,